Fellowship

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PEACE WALKERS DEMONSTRATE IN MOSCOW, TALK WITH MRS. K.

In the midst of deepening gloom about Soviet "rigidity" and "intransience," thirty-one peace walkers have marched across Russia from the Polish border to Moscow calling on Russians to disarm unilaterally and criticizing the Soviet resumption of nuclear testing. In Moscow, the walkers demonstrated and passed out leaflets in Red Square, carried on a 3-hour discussion with students at Moscow University, and had tea with Mrs. Khrushchev, who told them that Russia has no fall-out shelters because "there is no defense against nuclear war."

The walkers, sponsored by the American pacifist Committee for Nonviolent Action, began their trek from San Francisco ten months ago. They marched across the United States, demonstrating and holding meetings (see FELLOWSHIP July 1, 1961). In June six of them were flown to England, where the march was resumed with the addition of European pacifists. The walkers were barred from France, arrested in West Germany, deported from East Germany and welcomed in Poland.

Their reception in the Soviet Union had been arranged by their "advance man," FOR Secretary-Emeritus and veteran pacifist A. J. Muste, who persuaded the Russians to permit the first open demonstration of criticism of Soviet war policy in the nation's history. In their trek to Moscow, the walkers held frequent meetings, sometimes with from 200 to 1000 Russians listening, and passed out unilateral disarmament pleas in six languages, including Russian. In Red Square they were forbidden to speak as previously arranged, but displayed posters, handed out leaflets, and talked with groups of Muscovites. At Moscow University an attempt by faculty members to close the meeting after two hours was shouted down by the Russian students, who also applauded the walkers when they left. The students are said to have learned for the first time that the Soviet Union had resumed nuclear testing and were reportedly startled by hearing their country's policies likened to those of the West.

Coincidentally with the arrival of the walkers, the Soviet newspaper *Pravda* reprinted a full-column "portrait of the President of the United States" by *New York Post* editor James A. Wechsler. The column, which first appeared in the *Post* September 22, pleaded with the Soviet press to publish it as American

(Continued on next page)

MacLeod, Collins, for FOR Seminars

The Very Rev. George MacLeod, noted Scottish churchman and founder of the Iona Community, and Canon L. John Collins, head of England's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, have agreed to join other leaders in meeting with FOR-sponsored Peace Seminars for Americans in London next summer. Seminar sessions have been scheduled for New College and Campbell Hall in London, and at the 800-year-old Abbaye de Royaumont near Paris. Continental Leaders already signed up include Oberkirchenrat Heinz Kloppenburg of Germany and Pasteur Jean Lasserre, of France, and Andre Trocme of Switzerland. Participants in the seminar-tours will leave New York by chartered plane on August 2 under the leadership of American FOR staff members, returning about September 7.

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Peace Walkers *(cont'd)*

newspapers report on Premier Khrushchev. It portrayed Mr. Kennedy as prepared to accept "agreements short of victory," aware of the complexity of the problems, and willing to have "full negotiation about the future of Germany and of China and almost any explosive area if Mr. Khrushchev is ready to negotiate rather than dictate.

Referring to the President's background of great wealth, Wechsler observed that he is "the perfect caricature for Soviet propagandists" and their "Wall Street imperialists." He added, "If that doctrinaire rubbish is what Mr. Khrushchev believes, he is mad and we are all doomed."

Typhoon Delays *Phoenix* Voyage; Will Head for Nakhodka, Russia

The yacht *Phoenix*, manned by Japan FOR member Earle Reynolds and his family, was forced to dock in Izuhara, Tsushima, last month because of a typhoon which struck the Japanese mainland. Following the storm, Reynolds and his crew expect to continue the voyage to the Russian port of Nakhodka to protest the Soviet resumption of nuclear weapons testing. They expect to arrive there late in October. A letter from a Japanese FOR member, printed here in full, tells the story of their mission:

"Dear Fellow members of the FOR:

"Yesterday, the yacht *Phoenix*, bearing the family of Japan FOR members Dr. and Mrs. Earle Reynolds, their son Ted and their daughter Jessica and Tom Yoneda, a Nisei from California, left Hiroshima for Vladivostok, Russia. Although they had been unable to get visas from the Russian embassy in Tokyo and re-entry permits from the Japanese government before their departure, they sailed hoping that both governments would give their respective permissions later. Paul Sekiya, of the Japan FOR, has been interceding with the Russian government representatives in Japan; other influential Japanese friends of the Reynolds, with their own government. Before leaving, Dr. Reynolds, both by telephone and by letter, got in touch with the American consul in Kobe and made it plain that no protection of the American government is expected as they set out on this voyage of conscience and non-violence.

"Prominent among the hundreds of well-wishers at the dock to see off the *Phoenix* were victims of the A-bomb, members of their families, the children of the Folded Crane Society, who put leis of the colorful folded cranes around the necks of all aboard, held black-draped pictures of recent victims, sang the mournful song of the A-bomb, 'May it never again bring its terror.' Also present were the Rev. Kiyoshi Tanimoto, church members with their families, several Protestant missionaries.

"The Reynoldses took with them many letters expressing the hopes of the writers for peace and an end to the armaments race. They plan to give these messages to the Russian people if possible; otherwise, to the Russian officials who might intercept them. Mrs. Reynolds told me just before they sailed that they did not intend to enter Vladivostok or any other Russian port by force, but would turn back if their efforts were resisted by the Russians, i.e., by Russian officials. But they are hoping that the harbor master of the port just north of Vladivostok and unlike Vladivostok not a closed port, Nakhodka, will allow them to enter."

Sincerely,

Mary McMillan
Hiroshima, Japan.

NEWS from the peace front

A statement denouncing fallout shelters because they "tend to give people a false sense of security" and encourage some people "to think of nuclear war as inevitable and justifiable," was adopted by members of briefing conferences on social action within the 9-state North Central Jurisdiction of the Methodist Church, at a meeting in Minneapolis, Minn., last month. "The hope that many lives might be saved rests on many 'ifs,'" the statement said. Lives would be saved, it said, only "if there were adequate warning; if the attack were a weak one; if the shelters were far enough away from the blast; if necessary service and facilities remained in operation after the attack; if the shelters were not buried and sealed beneath mountains of rubble; and if chemical and biological warfare does not follow a nuclear attack." "Peace is our only security and our only hope," the statement said.

* * *

A plea to the governments of Australia and Great Britain "to pursue vigorously courses of action which will lead to the cessation of nuclear weapons testing and the resumption of negotiations of international agreements" was sent to them last month by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches. Expressing profound concern that experimental explosions of nuclear devices have been resumed, the Council's Committee appealed to the leaders of the nations for a new standard of moral leadership in international affairs.

* * *

The Presbyterian Synod of Ohio last month sustained the appeal of FOR member Maurice F. McCrackin against the Presbytery of Cincinnati, thus upsetting the Presbytery's verdict that he is guilty of "resisting the ordinances of God" and "violating the Confession of Faith" because of his tax refusal stand. However, the Synod stated that the decision does not constitute "an endorsement of the appellant's position." It then remanded the case to the Presbytery of Cincinnati for retrial.

McCrackin was suspended from his position of pastor of the Cincinnati-St. Barnabas Church last May. He has refused, on conscientious grounds, to pay taxes over a 12-year period because a major portion is used for war preparations.

* * *

A law suit testing the constitutionality of the Arizona "Loyalty Oath" is scheduled to be argued before the Arizona Supreme Court on Oct. 16. The loyalty oath law, passed during the last session of the State legislature, was first challenged last June by FOR member Barbara Elfbrandt, a teacher at a Tucson Junior High School.

Also, FOR member Julia Arnold refused to renew her contract with the Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind because the contract would have required her to promise to sign the loyalty oath. She had been with the institution as a housemother for nine years and had been offered an increase in pay.

* * *

Dr. Walter G. Bergman, one of the original Freedom Riders, was reported in poor condition in Detroit's Grace Hospital last month. Hospital tests showed a "pre-existent condition of brain damage" that may have resulted from injuries he sustained when he was beaten by a Southern mob last May. According to his wife, Bergman had complained of dizziness since the incident.

Bergman is a retired director of educational research for the Detroit Public Schools.

* * *

Hundreds of housewives across the country are expected to participate in a "Strike for Peace" on Nov. 1. The project, initiated by a group of housewives in Washington, D.C., will appeal to all governments for an end to the nuclear arms race "in the name of the

(Continued on next page)

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world's children." They will suspend their regular routine--home, family, job--for the day in order to make their plea to their elected representatives and UN delegates from many countries.

* * *

Two groups of Christian youth volunteers from West Berlin and West Germany will leave shortly for England and Israel, under the "Sign of Reconciliation" program sponsored by the Evangelical Church in Germany. One group will construct a House of Encounter in Coventry, England, and the other will build a large Christian-Jewish center and other structures for the sick and infirm in Israel.

LIT NOTES

On hand: A revised edition of *Questions and Answers on the Classification and Assignment of Conscientious Objectors* published by the National Service Board for Religious Objectors. Invaluable for persons taking the CO stand. Price: 25¢ a copy. Order from Fellowship Publications, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

* * *

Berlin: Disengagement Revisited by George F. Kennan, originally published in 1959, makes a good case for easing East-West tensions with special reference to Berlin and Germany and is vitally relevant to the present crisis. Price: 15¢ a copy. Order from Fellowship Publications, Box 271, Nyack, N.Y.

MISSING MEMBERS

If you know the whereabouts of any of these missing members, please advise the Membership Secretary, FOR, Box 271, Nyack, N.Y.

Here are the names, with last-known addresses where available: Mr. and Mrs. Lewis P. Howard (Glenshaw, Pa.); Pierre Sinclair Morgan (Philadelphia, Pa.); Katherine Peacock (Glendale, Cal.); Mrs. Bruce H. McDonald (Baltimore 17, Md.); John Fleming (Oklahoma City, Okla.); Patricia Gaede (Tucson, Ariz.); Clark A. Thompson (Winston-Salem, N.C.); Raymond W. Curtis (Boise, Idaho); Constance Garland (Boston 1, Mass.); Rev. John L. Hudson (New Haven, Conn.); Robert E. Tank (Ontario, Ore.); Mrs. L. D. Brown (Champaign, Ill.); Raymond Hoagland (Milton, Fla.); Karla Jane Lee (Whittier, Cal.).

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 3-4. National FOR Conference at the Church of the Covenant, 310 E. 42nd St., N.Y. Reigstration: Friday, 6:30 p.m.; panel discussion: "The Nature of the Communist Menace." Panelists; Roy Finch, A.J. Muste, Homer Jack, Stewart Meacham. Saturday, topic: "Turn Toward Peace" and Peace Workshop.

Nov. 18-19. Chicago area FOR Conference at the Chicago Theological Seminary. For information write: Dorothy Calkins, 3212 Otto Lane, Evanston, Ill.

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